

December 5, 2020

Marlene H Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street N.E.
Washington D.C. 20554

Re: IBFS File No. SAT-MOD-20200417-00037

Dear Ms. Dortch,

My name is Jacob Calderwood. I am a music teacher at a public elementary school in rural Alaska. I have 680 students, the majority of whom are Iñupiaq - Alaska Native. Since the pandemic shut our school down in March, approximately 3% of my students have been able to participate in online learning in some format. We have found that the primary reason for such low participation is internet access equity.

In our town Utqiagvik, Alaska internet is a luxury that many are barred from using. Being the farthest north city in the United States presents many challenges to access. Everything is expensive here from \$10 per gallon milk to internet bills in the hundreds. My own bill (See Figure 1) runs in excess of \$300 for 10 megabit speed and the cost varies depending on usage.

Figure 1

Figure one is my monthly bill from our local ISP Arctic Slope Telephone and Cooperative (Personal details blurred). I have a small business and have opted for business class internet which is approximately \$10-15 more per month. Business internet is generally more reliable than residential.



4300 B Street, Suite 501
Anchorage, AK 99503
www.astac.net

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BILL DATE: 12/01/2020
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MONTHLY USAGE FOR DSL: ██████████

Description	Date	Quantity	Amount
SUMMARY FOR: TEL ██████████			
PREVIOUS BALANCE DUE			.00
INTERNET SERVICES	12/01-12/31		
BUSINESS INTERNET 10 BASE RATE		1 @	34.99
STATIC IP MRC NO CHARGE			
BUSINESS INTERNET 10 - 193.52 GBS	11/20		292.00
INTERNET SERVICES SUBTOTAL			326.99
SUB-TOTAL			326.99
Credit Card Payment -- Do Not Pay			326.99



Since hearing about SpaceX's plan to offer affordable internet to the most rural areas of the world I have held out hope that relief may be coming for many in our community. Especially that my students might all have equitable access to education during this time. Further, SpaceX's

Nov 17th filing requesting permission to launch 58 satellites in a polar orbit puts credibility to their original plan.

SpaceX is the only company to begin delivery in a realistic way on the promise of affordable internet to rural America. As you know, beta trials are underway in the contiguous states.

It disturbs me that companies like Amazon's Kuiper among others have filed motions to dismiss SpaceX's request. They are late to the game and have not delivered on any real promises to date. With regard to internet for rural Alaska and the imminent December launch window, time is of the essence. The sooner companies like SpaceX can get beta testing going in Alaska, the better for everyone. During the pandemic my students need the same access to the internet as their contiguous state counterparts.

I urge the commission to consider approval of the request in SAT-MOD-20200417-00037.

Respectfully,

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